

\$20,000 back-pay for dozens of workers at Port Lincoln and Whyalla

2 February 2016

Dozens of workers at Port Lincoln and Whyalla have been short-changed thousands of dollars, recent investigations by the Fair Work Ombudsman have revealed.

Almost 70 workers at one business in Port Lincoln have been reimbursed a total of \$11,350 after their employer inadvertently failed to pass on an increase in Sunday penalty rates.

The largest individual underpayment was \$355.

Fair Work inspectors discovered the underpayments when they conducted a random audit of the business as part of a National Compliance Monitoring Campaign.

The oversight resulted in employees being paid incorrectly for nine months.

In a separate matter, a hospitality business at Whyalla was found to have underpaid 13 of its staff almost \$8000.

The casual employees, working as cooks, kitchen hands, grounds people, cleaners and food and beverage attendants, were short-changed their minimum hourly rates.

The largest individual underpayment was \$1629.

Fair Work Ombudsman Natalie James says the two cases highlight the importance of regional employers in South Australia ensuring they understand the wage rates applicable to their workplace.

“Underpayment of hourly rates can result in employees being significantly underpaid if left unchecked for an extended period, which can leave businesses facing big back-payments they weren’t budgeting for,” she said.

Ms James says employers should take advantage of the free tools and resources offered by the Fair Work Ombudsman to assist businesses to understand and comply with their lawful obligations.

A suite of innovative and interactive materials is available at www.fairwork.gov.au, including a Pay and Conditions Tool (PACT) that provides advice about entitlements.

Employers and employees seeking assistance can also call the Fair Work Infoline on 13 13 94. Small business can opt to be put through to a small business helpline, which has helped more than 250,000 callers since it was established.

Follow Fair Work Ombudsman Natalie James on Twitter [@NatJamesFWO](https://twitter.com/NatJamesFWO) (<http://twitter.com/NatJamesFWO>), the Fair Work Ombudsman [@fairwork_gov_au](https://twitter.com/fairwork_gov_au) (http://twitter.com/fairwork_gov_au) or find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/fairwork.gov.au (<http://www.facebook.com/fairwork.gov.au>).

Sign up to receive the Fair Work Ombudsman’s media releases direct to your email inbox at www.fairwork.gov.au/mediareleases (www.fairwork.gov.au/mediareleases).

Media inquiries:

Lara O’Toole, Media Adviser

Mobile: 0439 835 855

lara.otoole@fwo.gov.au (<mailto:lara.otoole@fwo.gov.au>)

Contact us

Fair Work Online: www.fairwork.gov.au

Fair Work Infoline: 13 13 94

Need language help?

Contact the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on 13 14 50

Hearing & speech assistance

Call through the National Relay Service (NRS):

For TTY: 13 36 77. Ask for the Fair Work Infoline 13 13 94

Speak & Listen: 1300 555 727. Ask for the Fair Work Infoline 13 13 94

The Fair Work Ombudsman is committed to providing advice that you can rely on. The information contained on this website is general in nature. If you are unsure about how it applies to your situation you can call our Infoline on 13 13 94 or speak with a union, industry association or workplace relations professional. Visitors are warned that this site may inadvertently contain names or pictures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have recently died.